

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1858.

SENATE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant calling for information in relation to the late rebellion in Illinois, which was read and laid on the table. The Secretary stated that said rebellion is no longer needed for military purposes, and that steps have been taken for its sale.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. BENJAMIN presented the petition of R. F. Simms and Arthur Barlow, inventors of an electro-magnetic telegraph, which, in its construction, places on the coast difficult of access, paying a small appropriation to test its practicability and utility; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SEWARD presented a petition of citizens of New York in favor of granting pensions to all the surviving officers and soldiers of the war of 1812; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. KENNEDY presented the petition of merchants of the city of Baltimore, praying for the repeal of the law establishing the light-house board; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BIGLER presented the petition of Ann L. Rogers, wife of John A. Rogers, praying compensation for his services as examiner of the land offices of the States of Alabama and Mississippi; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. COLLAMER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom the subject was referred, reported a joint resolution providing for the payment of certain expenses of holding the United States courts in the Territory of Utah; which was read three times by unanimous consent and passed. It provides that the expenses of holding the courts in the Territory of Utah, shall be paid out of the Treasury, under the limitations contained in the existing laws in reference to fees, and that on the restoration of peace in the Territory such expenses shall be chargeable to the Territory, or to the counties, as in other Territories.

Mr. JENKINS, from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill for the relief of John Hastings, collector of the port of Pittsburgh; which was read and passed to a second reading.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The joint resolution from the House of Representatives respecting the distribution of certain public documents was read three times by unanimous consent and passed.

DEBATES.

Mr. GWIN submitted the following resolution; which was read:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to communicate to the Senate what steps have been taken, if any, to punish the persons implicated in the massacre of one hundred and eighty-nine persons at the Territory of Utah.

Mr. G. asked the immediate consideration of this resolution, stating that this land of emigrants had been murdered, leaving none to tell the tale, and he was not aware that there had been the slightest movement made upon the part of the government to avenge their murder. These emigrants were going to California, to make their homes; and he felt called upon to speak for them as if they were a portion of his constituents. It had been stated that the massacre was committed by the Mormons; whether that was so or not he could not say, but it was very probable that it was committed by the Indians. He thought it would be for the good of the country to have a full and complete investigation of this matter, and he felt called upon to ask the Senate to pass this resolution.

Mr. HOUSTON suggested that it would be more proper to institute inquiries in the first place, who perpetrated the act.

Mr. GWIN answered that if an expedition was sent out there, no doubt they could soon ascertain every person who was engaged in the massacre, whether Indians or white men.

Mr. HOUSTON said he was opposed to this indiscriminate warfare upon Indians before the facts were ascertained. Our Indian was kept up by the fact that there were no white men in the Territory, and he felt called upon to speak for them as if they were a portion of his constituents.

Mr. GWIN wanted to know how the senator from Texas proposed to make inquiries? Did he propose to send out other persons, to be murdered as these were? What he (Mr. G.) wanted was to have a full and complete investigation of this matter, and he felt called upon to ask the Senate to pass this resolution.

ADMISSION OF KANSAS.

Mr. FOOT remarked that the floor was assigned to him upon the adjournment of the Senate last evening; and he would state that it had been a subject of mutual private arrangement among a portion of those who were expecting to speak upon this subject as to the order of time when these speeches should be made. Last evening he took the floor in the absence of the senator from Tennessee (Mr. Bell) at his request, as he had expressed a desire to be permitted to address the Senate this morning; and he, therefore, yielded the floor to that senator now, taking his chance to get the floor some time before the close of the debate for the few remarks he wished to make. He also announced that the senator from Tennessee and the senator from Georgia (Mr. Toombs) that the latter should open the debate this morning.

Mr. TOOMBS said that this was not a sectional question. It was true that it involved the rights, the safety, and the honor of fifteen States of this confederacy; and the principle involved in this question was worth more to them than the Union of these States. Yet, because it was a great constitutional question it was not a sectional one. Let us not deceive ourselves. The question was not so much whether Kansas should be admitted to the Union as whether the rights of the States of this confederacy should be maintained; whether any more slave States should ever be admitted into this Union. That was the true issue, and that must be met by its friends. Victory in the passage of the bill was a victory on the question; and even if the bill failed it was a defeat for the Union.

Mr. FOOT moved to postpone the further consideration of this subject, and all other prior orders, for the purpose of considering the bill for the admission of the State of Kansas into the Union; which was agreed to.

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was objected that at a subsequent election there was a vote of ten thousand against the constitution. To this he replied that that vote was taken without authority, and was therefore inoperative—null and void. The constitution was formed and ratified; it was an accomplished act, and no territorial legislature could overturn it. The power of the territorial legislature was not a power to make constitutions or unmake them, but simply a power to prescribe certain forms through which the people could do that. The people had already gone through those forms, and executed their purpose; consequently, the territorial legislature, which was the creature of the people, had no right or power to overturn the act of the sovereign people themselves. The opponents of this bill also go outside of the constitution, and say that it is not the work of the people, because it was established by usurpation and fraud.

Mr. T. disposed of these objections in a most convincing manner, and was listened to throughout his remarks with great attention by a full Senate and densely-crowded gallery.

Mr. CRITTENDEN briefly replied to some of the points raised by Mr. Toombs in commenting upon his remarks yesterday. He hoped the constitution would be sent back, and again subjected to the test of popular scrutiny; and the people ratified it, let Kansas be admitted into the Union, let a new constitution be formed which the people shall approve.

Mr. BELL thought the senator from Georgia in his speech to-day had announced doctrines and used arguments which required an extended notice; and he should therefore feel compelled, by the exigencies of the case, to trespass longer on the patience of the Senate than he would otherwise have done. From the remarks of the senator from Georgia, it would seem as if he regarded this as a question of union or disunion; he even spoke of calculating the value of the Union in certain contingencies; and when language like that was used upon the floor of the Senate, all lovers of the Union should be alarmed. Mr. B. thought he was as good a friend of the South as the senator from Georgia; but he should wait until the question of the admission of no more slave States was presented, aside from collateral issues, before he was ready to calculate the value of the Union. In the course of his remarks he had stated that the vote of the South in the first election in Kansas, and yet 6,000 votes were cast, of which number only about 800 were those of persons registered. Where did these five thousand and odd votes come from?

At quarter before four o'clock the Senate took a recess until 7 p. m.

Mr. BELL resumed his remarks. He proceeded to give a history of the various elections in Kansas, and the number of votes cast at each, having also made some allusion to the fact that the vote of the South in the first election in Kansas, and yet 6,000 votes were cast, of which number only about 800 were those of persons registered. Where did these five thousand and odd votes come from?

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surrender; otherwise, they would have the loss of many lives in that Territory, and a protracted war—a war, which would be a curse to the country. Brigham Young had learned something by experience, and would profit by it. From these considerations he was constrained to vote for the bill of the majority of the committee.

Mr. QUITMAN thought that the debate had been sufficiently extended, and that the views of all sides had been presented. He demanded the previous question.

The previous question was sustained—yeas 70, nays 48—and the main question ordered.

Mr. QUITMAN then proceeded to reply to the arguments which had been made against his bill. There were two classes of opponents. First those who were opposed to the admission of Kansas on the ground that it was not a free State, and secondly those who were opposed to the admission of Kansas on the ground that it was not a free State. The first class of opponents were those who were opposed to the admission of Kansas on the ground that it was not a free State, and the second class of opponents were those who were opposed to the admission of Kansas on the ground that it was not a free State.

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POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION AT COLUMBUS, OHIO.—The largest public meeting ever held in Columbus took place on the 15th inst. It was three times as large as the one lately held there by the anti-slavery and five hundred times as enthusiastic. Strong resolutions emphatically sustaining the Kansas policy of Mr. Buchanan were adopted unanimously. Eloquent and effective speeches were made by Judge Elden, Col. Medary, Judge Starkweather, and others.

The report of Mr. Stephens is an admirable document. It presents the facts of the case with great clearness, and completely disposes of all the objections urged against the Kansas policy. The argument of Mr. Douglas and his followers against the justice of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, because it was not submitted in full to the people for their ratification, are shown to be entirely fallacious. But a small number of the constitutions of the States of this Union have been so ratified. The objections to the fairness of the election are squarely met and fully answered. Unopposed assertions are met and controverted by authenticated facts. Thus it is shown that the President's policy is clearly right and ought to be sustained.—(Union, N. Y. Republican.)

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

APPOINTMENT OF CADETS AT THE WEST POINT ACADEMY.—The following persons have been appointed cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point, to fill vacancies from the several States, according to their representation in Congress:

Maine.—Jared A. Smith, 2; O. A. Blanchard, 5. Massachusetts.—George Burroughs, 4; John H. Gale, 6; C. C. Chaffee, 10; W. B. Chapman, 11; vacancy in 1st district.

Connecticut.—James D. Webb, 3; vacancy in 2d district. New York.—F. J. James, 9; John Egan, 16; J. R. Reed, 18; T. V. Kinne, 24; H. C. Dodge, 25; A. M. Murray, 26.

New Jersey.—W. C. Barnard, 1; vacancy in 3d district. Pennsylvania.—C. W. Smith, 2; J. H. Porter, 6; Jas. Riddle, 22; vacancy in 15th and 24th districts.

Maryland.—R. E. Noonan, 5; J. F. Stone, 6. Virginia.—J. P. Cox, 3; T. G. Dearing, 5; R. S. Kinney, 9; vacancy in 6th district.

North Carolina.—C. H. Barton, 2; W. C. Cannady, 4; J. W. Adams, 6; C. W. Clark, 10; vacancy in 1st district. South Carolina.—James Hamilton, 3; H. S. Farley, 4.

Georgia.—J. R. Johnson, 2; J. S. Blount, 3; J. A. Alexander, 4; E. C. Arnold, 6; J. A. West, 7. Kentucky.—G. M. Ewing, 9; vacancy in the 2d and 9th districts.

Pennsylvania.—A. Paine, 4; T. R. Smith, 5; E. McE. Ross, 6; Frank Marcy, 8; vacancy in 3d district. Ohio.—H. B. Denny, 7; V. Conrad, 9; Morris Hall, 12; F. B. Hamilton, 13; A. B. Bolles, 17; H. S. Wetmore, 18; vacancy in 3d, 6th, 8th, and 11th districts.

Louisiana.—H. Gilley, 1; A. Selby, 3. Indiana.—J. W. Shreve, 2; Isaac Helm, 5; J. P. Drake, 6; W. F. Spurgeon, 7; J. A.